

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 3 and 6-8 are amended, and claim 9 is canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 10, 11 and 13-20 are pending in this application. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 13-30 are allowed, and that claims 3, 6 and 9 include allowable subject matter.

II. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 3, 6 and 9 because of informalities. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the preamble of the claims recite a method dependent upon independent claim 15, which is an apparatus. Claims 3 and 6 are amended to correctly recite the "analyzing apparatus" to obviate the objection. Thus, claims 3 and 6 are not narrowed by these amendments.

The Office Action also asserts that claim 9 is an improper dependent claim failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. As claim 9 is canceled, the objection is moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the feature of "the element analysis," as recited in claims 6-9. The rejection is moot with respect to canceled claim 9, and respectfully traversed with respect to claims 6-8.

Applicants submit that claim 6 does not recite "the element analysis." Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection with respect to claim 6 is improper.

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Applicants amend claims 7 and 8 only to provide proper antecedent basis for the feature of "the element analysis." Thus, the claims are not narrowed by these amendments.

For at least the reasons set forth above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8, 10, 11 and 13-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Moore
Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNM/ale

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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